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PP RUEHDE RUEHROV RUEHTRO
DE RUEHEG #1571/01 2240935
ZNY CCCCC ZZB
P 120935Z AUG 09
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3425
INFO RUCNSOM/SOMALIA COLLECTIVE
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0422

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 001571

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA, AF/E

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/04/2019

TAGS: PREL PTER EWWT KCRM SQ EG

SUBJECT: PM PDAS COUNTRYMAN TALKS PIRACY WITH EGYPTIAN
OFFICIALS

Classified By Minister Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs Donald A. Blome for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Key Points: -- The Government of Egypt (GoE) stressed it values cooperation with the USG on piracy and Somalia. Egypt is anxious to implement its policy.
- 2.(C) Comment: The GoE is beginning to understand USG ideas on the division of labor between the two Somalia contact groups, but would like to see more progress.
- 3.(C) PM PDAS Countryman met in separate meetings on August 2 with Ambassador Abdelhammed Marzouk, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for East Africa.
- 4.(C) Marzouk said the GoE values cooperation with the USG on piracy and Somalia. He had recommended increasing U.S.-Egyptian cooperation by securing a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.
- 5.(C) Countryman stated 20 countries are currently participating in joint anti-piracy naval operations. However, he recognized Egypt's small role in these operations.
- 6.(C) Countryman advocated for prosecution of pirates by affected countries and said if Egypt were one of the first to accept, detain, and prosecute pirates, it would encourage other countries to do the same.
- 7.(C) Mohsen said the idea of local Egyptian prosecution was a "non-starter." He claimed the international court was his idea and opined that the USG should take the lead in addressing piracy.
- 8.(C) Countryman explained the USG is committed to the long-term stabilization of Somalia, but feels piracy can be effectively addressed in the short term through regional cooperation.
- 9.(C) Marzouk noted that the U.S. was working separately with the local governments in Somaliland and Puntland, and he asked if the U.S. supports this approach.
- 10.(U) PDAS Countryman cleared this cable. SCOBAY